

What is claimed is:

- 1) Method of coding a video image displayed on a plasma display panel comprising a plurality of cells arranged in rows and columns, the video levels of the pixels of the image being defined by n-bit video words, each bit, depending on its state, illuminating or not illuminating the cell to which it is addressed for a specific time called the subfield,
characterized in that, for video levels GL1 and GL2 to be displayed by a pair of cells (C1, C2) situated in the same column and in two adjacent rows of the panel, video words VW1 and VW2 are selected, the said words comprising at least one common bit addressed simultaneously to the two cells at the moment of displaying the image and corresponding to levels equal or approximately equal to the video levels GL1 and GL2 such that, if $GL1 > GL2$, then the temporal centre of gravity of the illumination generated by the video word VW1 is greater than that generated by the video word VW2.
- 2) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the video words VW1 and VW2 selected comprise k common bits, each common bit being simultaneously addressed to the two cells of the pair during what is called a common subfield, k being greater than 1.
3. Method according to Claim 2, characterized in that, to select the video words VW1 and VW2, the following steps are carried out:

(a) a set of p video words whose temporal centre of gravity increases continuously as the corresponding video level increases is defined;

(b) the video words whose corresponding video
5 levels GL1' and GL2' are equal or approximately equal to the video levels GL1 and GL2, respectively, are determined from the said p video words;

(c) one or other of the video words determined in step (b) is selected; and

10 (d) the video word whose temporal centre of gravity and video level are closest to those of the video word not selected in step (c) are selected from all the possible video word having bits with the same value as the video words selected for the common
15 subfields.

4) Method according to Claim 2, characterized in that, in order to select the video words VW1 and VW2, the following steps are carried out:

20 (a) a set of p video words whose temporal centre of gravity increases continuously as the corresponding video level increases is defined;

(b) the pair of video words whose corresponding video levels GL1' and GL2' are equal or approximately
25 equal to the video levels GL1 and GL2, respectively, are determined from the said p video words; and

(c) the pair of video words whose temporal centres of gravity and video levels are closest to those of the pair of video words determined in step (b)
30 is selected from all the possible video words having

bits with the same value as the video word selected for the common subfields.

- 5) Coding system for a plasma display panel,
5 characterized in that it implements the coding method according to one of Claims 1 to 4.